

Dear Veterans, Military Families and Supporters,

Please find a number of resources below to benefit veterans and military families. They are not endorsed by my office, just a compilation of programs and services that come across my desk. Please feel free to share and vet according to your needs. If you have any events, programs, job opportunities, etc. that would benefit this group, please forward it to me. Thank you. Lisa

- [MDVA Newsletter April 14](#)
- [Military and Veteran Academic Resource Fair](#) – April 18 at Howard Community College, 5:30-7:30pm
- [Free Homebuying Seminar](#) –April 19 in Columbia, 6:30-8:30pm
- [The Future of HR: Promoting Business Success in a Changing Workplace](#) – April 20, 8am-10:30am in Columbia
- [Anne Arundel County Military Veterans EXPO 2017](#) - Saturday, April 22, 2017 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Annapolis High School
2700 Riva Road
Annapolis, MD 21401

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS: Housing, Education, Medical/Behavioral Health Info, VA Disability Claims, Military Discharge Upgrades, VA Healthcare Enrollment; VA Clinics, Resume Writing and Interviewing Skills, Unfair Consumer Financial Debt & Collection, GI Bill Workshop, Vendor Exhibits and much More!

- **Identifying Depression Reconnection Workshop for Veterans, their families and those who work with that population in our community.**

24 April from 10:45 to 12:15

Silver Spring, MD

Registration is Required by April 20th

The Reconnection Workshops are confidential small-group modules, led by licensed mental health professionals. The workshops focus on building skills that enhance the likelihood of positive reconnections among family members, as well as the successful reengagement of the service member in civilian life, by increasing interactions and developing additional sources of support.

The workshops are free and available to all those impacted by a military deployment from all branches of the Armed Forces, which includes Reserve, National Guard, active duty service members, veterans and their families, including spouses, parents, siblings, significant others and close friends.

To register contact Chris Duffley
(571) 233-3332
Chris.duffley@redcross.org

- [Howard County Business Appreciation Week](#) – April 24-28
- [Ft Belvoir Career Fair](#) – April 27
- **NAMI of Howard County (National Alliance of Mental Illness)**
Connection Support Group (CSG) Monday, 4/24 -Wilde Lake Interfaith Center:
6:30pm-8pm
Family Support Group (FSG) Friday, 4/21-Celebration Church: 7:30pm-9pm
Transition Age Youth Support Group (TAY) 4/20-First Presbyterian Church:
7:30pm-9pm
Parent Support Group (PSG) 4/26-First Presbyterian Church: 7:30pm-9pm
- [Reserved Officers Association \(ROA\)](#) **Henry J. Reilly Scholarship Program** for the 2017-18 Academic Year is Open - Applications are due by **May 1, 2017**
- **Military Appreciation Day Dental Hygiene Services – May 9**, 9am-2pm at Howard Community College (see flier)
- Free Frederick Keys tickets for Veterans – June 3 (see attachment)
- [Conference for those who Serve Service Members, Veterans, and their Families:](#)
Building Collaborative Communities in Maryland (see flier) - **Wednesday, June 14, 2017** from 8:00AM to 4:00PM
Anne Arundel Community College
Pascal Center for the Performing Arts
101 College Parkway
Arnold, MD 21012

This will be a one day conference for local organizations who support Maryland service members, veterans and families. Panel discussions focusing on behavioral health, honoring service, and military and veteran centered outdoor programming will take place. Visit with state and local resources during the conference resource fair. Light breakfast and lunch provided.

Who Should Attend: County veteran council and commission members, veteran service organizations, student veteran coordinators and non profit organizations who serve the military, veterans, and families.

This is a joint initiative between the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, Maryland National Guard, and Maryland's Commitment to Veterans.

- **Take a Free Online Healthcare Informatics Course** offered through the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Normandale College

Courses are online, FREE, and offer CEUs, CMEs and Certificates from Johns Hopkins University and Normandale College.

[Register Here](#)

Topics Include:

Healthcare Data Analytics (2 courses available)

Value-Based Care (3 courses available)

Population Health (3 courses available)

eCourses are short, self-paced and only require Internet access.

This training is made freely available to qualified candidates via a grant from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

Courses will close when full. Program ends in June, 2017 or earlier if full. Contact MNHIT@normandale.edu for questions.

- **Maryland Humanities:**

Wouldn't it be great to be able to hear from and interact with notable figures in history? Well, you can. In July 2017, join Maryland Humanities at our 23rd annual Chautauqua living history series.

[Chautauqua 2017: Voices from the Great War](#)

- **Dental Screening Fair – Sat. Sept 9**, 9am-3pm in Laurel, MD (see attached flier)
- **VA Secretary Praises Congress for Extending Choice Program:** Calls legislation major step toward increasing access to care

April 6, 2017 - Following the U.S. Senate's passage by unanimous consent, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that extends the Veterans Choice Program (VCP) until the funding dedicated to the program is exhausted. The VCP is a critical program that increases access to care for millions of Veterans. Without this legislation, the ability to use VCP funding would have ended abruptly on Aug. 7 of this year. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin released the following statement of support:

"Congress has once again demonstrated that the country stands firmly united when it comes to supporting our nation's Veterans," Secretary Shulkin said. "The Department of Veterans Affairs truly appreciates the quick bipartisan resolution Congress provided with the extension of the Veterans Choice Program.

"I want to thank Chairman Johnny Isakson, Ranking Member Jon Tester, Chairman Phil Roe, Ranking Member Tim Walz and all the members of our committees for their leadership as we continue to make improvements to increase Veterans' access to care," Secretary Shulkin continued. "I also want to thank Senator John McCain, who has championed choice for Veterans and whose work on this issue allowed for swift and successful resolution. "VA looks forward to continued bipartisan support as we partner with Congress to not only develop a long-term solution for community care, but also work toward other critical legislation, such as accountability and appeals modernization to ensure Veterans receive the highest quality of care, benefits and support they have earned."

- [Improvements to Tricare Dental](#)
- [VFW Actions Corps Weekly Newsletter](#)
- [Military Veterans' Travel Guide – Ideas, Discounts, & Resources](#)
- [Military and Veterans Discount Guide](#)
- [Military Moving Guide](#)
- [Resources for Veterans](#)
- [Howard County Activities Search](#)
- [Gary Sinise Foundation](#) for Veterans

- [Big Brothers and Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake](#) – mentor a military child
 - [American Corporate Partners](#) – free mentor to assist military in civilian transition
 - [Smithsonian Fellowships, Internships and more](#)
 - **Affordable Dental Care** at Howard Community College's Dental Hygiene Center (for those without dental insurance) – see attached brochure
 - **Legal analysis on the issues impacting your life in and out of uniform**
Former Service Member's Law Center director, retired USNR Capt. Sam Wright, provides periodic law review updates. Please see ROA's [Law Center webpage](#) for more information on service members' law.
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- [No. 17021](#) New FPCA Form Eliminates the Obnoxious Race Question
 - [No. 17022](#) USERRA and the Tax Bump
 - [No. 17023](#) Pro Bono Attorney Does Great Job for USERRA Claimant
 - [No. 17024](#) Don't Apply for Reemployment until you Are Ready To Return to Work
 - [No. 17025](#) Don't Expect the Employer To Help You Exercise your USERRA Rights
 - [No. 17026](#) Please Help Preserve Hazlewood Act Educational Benefits in Texas
 - [No. 17027](#) Don't Let USERRA's Five-Year Limit Bite You
 - [No. 17028](#) Federal Employee Is Exempted from the Descending Escalator
 - [No. 17029](#) USERRA Applies all over the World to the United States Government and other United States Employers
 - [No. 17030](#) Is a National Guard Member on Active Duty Eligible To Vote in an NLRB Union Representation Election at her Civilian Workplace?
 - [No. 17031](#) How Does USERRA's Escalator Principle Apply to Government Contractors

- [No. 17032](#) Enforcing USERRA against State Government Employers
- [No. 17033](#) Can You Sue the State of Tennessee for Violating USERRA?

[Visit the ROA Service Members Law Center](#)

Fort Meade Financial Readiness Office Monthly Financial Focus – see attachment

- [New Exhibit at Fort George G. Meade Museum part of installation's 100th anniversary](#)
- **VA Adopts New Standards for Medical Diagnostic Equipment**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will adopt new accessibility **standards** issued by the Access Board to ensure access to medical diagnostic equipment (MDE) at its health care facilities. Under an agreement governing acquisitions, the VA will require that new equipment meet the MDE standards which were published in January. The VA's health care network, the largest integrated health care system in the U.S., includes 152 medical centers, nearly 800 community-based outpatient clinics, and over 125 nursing home care units.



Access to MDE has been problematic for people with disabilities, including those who use wheelchairs and other mobility aids. The Board's standards provide design criteria for examination tables and chairs, including those used for dental or optical exams, weight scales, radiological equipment, mammography equipment and other equipment used for diagnostic purposes by health professionals.

"The Board applauds the VA for its initiative and leadership in advancing access to health care for all veterans, including those with disabilities," stated David M. Capozzi, the Board's Executive Director.

The MDE standards, as issued by the Board, are not mandatory unless adopted by a federal agency. The VA's use of these standards will help it meet responsibilities under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act which requires access to federally funded programs and services. Other entities, including health care providers and state and local governments, can voluntarily adopt and apply the standards as well.

For further information on the MDE standards, visit the Board's **website** or contact Earlene Sesker at **sesker@access-board.gov**, (202) 272-0022 (v), or (202) 272-0091 (TTY). Questions about the new VA acquisition policy should be directed to Laurence Meyer at **Laurence.Meyer@va.gov**.

- **USCVA Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization Training and Employment Opportunities** (see attachment)

VA encourages businesses to educate, hire, and train America's Veterans. The following companies, government programs, and

nonprofits have proven their commitment to helping Veterans transition from military to civilian employment. By promoting the

hiring of Veterans and encouraging their entrepreneurial spirit, these companies and programs give Veterans opportunities to

grow within established organizations or create their own small businesses.

Access a list some of these companies and program

below.

- [Mental Health First Aid](#) helps you assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. In the Mental Health First Aid course, you learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help. Courses in Columbia, Silver Spring and others.

5 Quick Tips for Avoiding Tax Collection Scams

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will begin using private collection agencies to collect overdue federal tax debts starting in April 2017. Unfortunately, con artists are likely to use this change to trick individuals into paying money they do not owe.

Remember these tips to avoid being scammed:

- Back taxes can only be collected by specific agencies selected by the IRS who are required to abide by the Fair Credit Debt Collection Practices Act.
- Before an approved agency calls you, the IRS will send you a letter that gives you the name of the agency and information on what you owe. The agency will then send a second, separate confirmation letter. If you have not received written notice, don't trust callers demanding money for back taxes.
- Approved agencies may identify themselves as IRS contractors collecting taxes, but imposters will too. Only agree to pay by using the IRS website or by sending a check directly to the IRS (payable to "U.S. Treasury.") Hang up if the caller: asks you to send money to anyone other than the IRS or US Treasury; requests your debit or credit card number; or tells you to pay using prepaid debit cards, iTunes or gift cards.
- Approved private collection agencies are not authorized to take criminal action against taxpayers and cannot threaten taxpayers with arrest or deportation.

- If you aren't sure if you owe back taxes, check your IRS account balance at: www.irs.gov/balancedue. If you are unable to pay the full amount, set up a payment plan with the IRS.

For more information on the IRS' use of private collection agencies and how to avoid tax collection calls, read OCP's new factsheet posted at: www.howardcountymd.gov/consumer.

To file a complaint or request this factsheet in an alternative format, call 410-313-6420 or email consumer@howardcountymd.gov.

Nonprofit Employment Opportunities

Business Office Assistant - Building Families for Children

Two (2) years of college or equivalent training required. Strong background in computer systems. Excellent administrative and secretarial skills, including knowledge of bookkeeping principles, proficiency in typing, correspondence with stakeholders, and operating office machinery. [Read more](#).

Accountant - Bridges to Housing Stability

Bridges to Housing Stability is in search of a Full Time Accountant (30 hours a week). This position is supervised by the Director of Finance and Administration and is responsible for general ledger management, account reconciliation, cash receipts processing, depreciation and accruals, restricted asset releases, A/R collections, preliminary monthly accounting cycle closing, all financial records and grant accounting and reporting. [Read more](#).

Psychogeriatric Coordinator - Howard County Mental Health Authority

The Howard County Mental Health Authority is seeking a dynamic Psychogeriatric Coordinator to provide consultation, education, and technical assistance concerning older adult mental health consumers in Howard County. [Read more](#).

Older Adult Behavioral Health PASRR Specialist - Howard County Mental Health Authority

The Howard County Mental Health Authority is seeking two full-time regional Older Adult Behavioral Health PASRR Specialist Positions. One will serve the Central Region which includes the following counties: Cecil, Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, and Howard. The other will serve the Southern Region which includes the following counties: Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles and Saint Mary's. [Read more](#).

Development Officer - Blossoms of Hope

The Board of Directors for Blossoms of Hope is seeking a part-time Development Officer to help advance its mission to enhance our quality of life through beautification projects and support for cancer and other causes.

As this is a new position, the ideal candidate is a self-starter with a proven track record of fundraising success. S/he will work independently from his/her own home office and be provided a laptop to be used exclusively for the business of this organization. [Read more.](#)

One-Stop Employment Services – Office of Workforce Development

The Office of Workforce Development's focus is on meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in our local labor market. Their objective is to provide excellent customer service to anyone using their workforce development resources. Take advantage of their [free resources](#).

Local Employment Opportunities

[IntelliGenesis LLC](#) is currently seeking TS/SCI cleared candidates to fill some of our new opportunities!! If you are interested in learning more about these positions please be sure to visit the links below or Email Andrew Koch at andrew.koch@intelligenesisluc.com for further information.

Embedded Developer – Annapolis Junction/Ft. Meade MD

<http://chc.tbe.taleo.net/chc01/ats/careers/requisition.jsp;sessionid=7F6E9E7A6436A1A09B22C225D09CE060?org=INTELLIGENESIS&cws=1&rid=400>

Cloud Software Engineer – Annapolis Junction/Ft. Meade MD

<http://chc.tbe.taleo.net/chc01/ats/careers/requisition.jsp;sessionid=7D179A32ADCCCD5B064F4316A78D0085?org=INTELLIGENESIS&cws=1&rid=346>

Language Analysts – Annapolis Junction/Ft. Meade MD and Augusta GA

<http://chc.tbe.taleo.net/chc01/ats/careers/requisition.jsp;sessionid=24329B0DB7DB607FB88384AD30E756C8?org=INTELLIGENESIS&cws=1&rid=477>

Network and Threat Support Specialist – Annapolis Junction/Ft. Meade MD

<http://chc.tbe.taleo.net/chc01/ats/careers/requisition.jsp;sessionid=D649F3D312A8F9FBC29206EA1486A222?org=INTELLIGENESIS&cws=1&rid=511>

SIGDEV Analyst – Annapolis Junction/Ft Meade MD

<http://chc.tbe.taleo.net/chc01/ats/careers/requisition.jsp;sessionid=D649F3D312A8F9FBC29206EA1486A222?org=INTELLIGENESIS&cws=1&rid=355>

Lisa B. Terry, Manager, Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families
Administrator, Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families
Howard County Government
Department of Community Resources and Services
6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 303
Columbia, MD 21046
Office: 410-313-6400
Direct : 410-313-0821
<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/veterans>

The Department of Community Resources and Services provides vital human services through its offices of ADA Coordination, Aging and Independence, Children and Families, Community Partnerships, Consumer Protection, Local Children's Board, and Veterans and Military Families.

The Howard County Office of Veterans and Military Families (OVMF) provides guidance, information and access to the more than 20,000 veterans who live in Howard County, as well as their dependents and survivors, and military families. The OVMF also promotes activities for veterans of all ages and collaborates with other service providers to address more complex issues.

Howard County Commission on Veterans and Military Families <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/vetcomm>

Department of Community Resources and Services Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/HoCoCommunity/>

Commission on Veterans and Military Families Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/HocoMilitary/>

Reserved Veteran Parking Initiative

Honor veterans living and working in Howard County by installing a Reserved Veteran Parking sign at your place of business or in honor of a loved one.

http://www.howardchamber.com/chamber_information/veteran_parking_sign_initiative.aspx